

# DOCTOR HAS SERVED TOWN WELL



STAFF PHOTO/ANDRIA FARRELL

Dr. James Peters, a 30-year member of the King Caesar Advisory Committee, was honored for his work and dedication during the selectmen's meeting Monday night. The King Caesar Advisory Committee provides medical support and payment for medical care for the elderly and less fortunate in Duxbury. The committee brings cases before the board of selectmen in a confidential manner to gain funds from the account to help assist those in medical need. Many people have been able to benefit from the committee over the years, selectmen chairman Andre Martecchini said.

"The committee works tirelessly to support the poor and less fortunate people in Duxbury with medical needs," he said.

Selectmen presented Peters, 81, with a framed Resolve to Honor certificate recognizing his achievements and dedication to the committee for more than 30 years. It outlined him as an "Invaluable resource," to the committee and regarded his "compassion" for which he handled his position.

"Dr. James I. Peters has diligently recognized the fiduciary responsibilities of his role on the King Caesar Advisory Committee; all the while balancing that responsibility with a wealth of compassion and an understanding of the changing needs of our time," the resolution stated.

# On their guard

Is security at the Pilgrim station up to the challenge?

By Max Bowen  
mbowen@cnc.com

**"Security at the plant has been studied from many different angles. The plant already had very thorough security programs. Since 9/11, it's been further fortified."**

Nuclear Regulatory Commission Spokesperson Neil Sheehan

PLYMOUTH — Security measures at the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station are tested on an almost daily basis, but some are claiming those measures are coming up a little short.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Spokesperson Neil Sheehan said security at plants like Pilgrim has always been a high priority, but since 9/11, this has been increased several times over. While not all the details of Pilgrim's security can be revealed, Sheehan particularly noted the several-foot-thick concrete walls, reinforced with a layer of steel.

A stainless steel liner blocks the spent fuel pool, which is equipped with an emergency water system to replenish the pool in the event a leak did occur. These pools are typically 40 feet deep, and hold fuel assemblies removed from the nuclear reactor. They are stored for 10 to 20 years before being removed for reprocessing or dry cask storage. The water cools the fuel and provides shielding from radiation.

"These are all aspects of plant security which have been put under the microscope," Sheehan said.

Since the events of Sept. 11 2001, many plant security teams

are now required to develop measures to counter attacks by terrorists. Among the scenarios Pilgrim officials have addressed are attacks from the air, especially significant with the Plymouth Airport located nearby.

The security teams regularly participate in force drills, where a team from the NRC will take on the role of a terrorist group and attempt to take over the plant. The plant's security must then repel the intruders in these mock attacks. Another scenario involves an employee of the plant acting as an insider, providing the "terrorists" with information on security.

"We have almost constant inspections," Entergy Spokesperson David Tarantino said. "We have to be able to prove to the NRC that we can defend the plant."

As good as these security measures may be, could they be better? Mary Lampert of Pilgrim Watch believes so. Along with additional reinforcement for air and sea attacks, she has advocated for a wider distribution of the spent fuel, storing it in several locations to lessen the damage if a pool was hit.

"If one gets hit, it's not the whole kit and caboodle," Lampert said. "Pilgrim is in America's Hometown, which makes it attractive (to terrorists)."

Lampert has also recommended constructing a steel beam hedge system, which would shatter the wings of incoming aircraft intent on attacking the plant. While the risks of an attack cannot be eliminated, she said, more attention can be paid to upgrading the emergency planning.

"If something goes wrong it would be a disaster," she said. "The risk needs to be reduced as much as possible."

A pair of on-site NRC inspectors run regular examinations on plant security, according to Tarantino. Coast Guard boats patrol the waters to watch for suspicious actions on the sea, and drills are conducted at local hospitals like Jordan to see how they would respond in the event of an attack or other disaster.

"Security at the plant has been studied from many different angles," Sheehan said. "The plant already had very thorough security programs. Since 9/11, it's been further fortified."